187: The Rise of the Latino Vote

By Jennifer Robinson / Web Producer
Published September 23, 2022 at 3:55 PM PDT

March Against Prop 187 in Fresno, California 1994 / website

Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022 at 10 p.m. on KPBS TV / On demand with PBS Video App

The documentary chronicles Proposition 187, a California ballot measure passed in 1994 that sought to deny public services to undocumented immigrants. While the initiative was meant to keep the “immigrant threat” at bay, it mobilized non-immigrants and immigrants in Latino communities as well as their allies across the state.

Reprinted from the article available at:
The political awakening of this powerful group would dramatically change the state’s electoral politics, transforming the state into a Blue and progressive state for the first time. Proposition 187 created new and enduring political faultlines across California and across the nation as well as molded the political careers of a new generation of leaders.
Watch a pivotal moment in California history unfold through more than 20 interviews with major political figures, artists and thinkers from across the state including:

- California State Senator Maria Elena Durazo
- Former California State Senator and current LA City Councilmember Gil Cedillo
- Former California State senate President pro tempore Kevin de León
- Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund (MALDEF) president Thomas Saenz
- California State Assembly speaker emeritus Fabian Núñez
- The first Latina in history to be elected to the California State Legislature Gloria Molina
- Former California State Senate Majority leader and member of the California State Assembly Richard Polanco
- and more...
